

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 INT-08 SCEM-02 AF-10 H-03 L-03

SS-15 NSC-10 DRC-01 /202 W
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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 676

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 25010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, JA, LY

SUBJECT: YAMAGATA COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL OIL SITUATION

REF: TOKYO 12142

1. WE FOUND YAMAGATA'S REMARKS ON THE INTERNATIONAL OIL SITUATION, AT LEAST AS REPORTED IN PRESS AND TRANSMITTED REFTEL, OBJECTIONABLE IN TWO RESPECTS IN THEIR APPARENT REFERENCE TO RECENT MEETING OF HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF THE OECD OIL COMMITTEE. THEY CONSTITUTE MISLEADING DESCRIPTION OF US POSITION EXPRESSED AT THAT MEETING AND THEY VIOLATE AGREED RULE THAT SUBSTANCE OF HLG MEETINGS SHOULD
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BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

2. AT LAST MEETING OF HLG, NOTHING SAID BY US OR BY OTHER DELEGATIONS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CALL FOR "IL-CONSUMER NATIONS' UNION." THE USG, WHILE STRONGLY SUPPORTING COOPERATION AMONG CONSUMING COUNTRIES, HAS CONSISTENTLY WARNED AGAINST A RIGID, CONFRONTATION APPROACH SUCH AS THIS EXPRESSION APPEARS TO IMPLY.

3. MOREOVER, THE STATEMENT THAT THE USG AND OTHERS REQUESTED THAT OIL NOT BE PURCHASED FROM LIBYA COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CALL FOR COMPLETE BOYCOTT. US AND OTHERS WERE VERY EXPLICIT IN LIMITING THEIR REMARKS TO "HOT OIL" FROM EXPROPRIATED PROPERTIES IN LIBYA.

4. FINALLY, AT LAST MEETING OF HLG, CHAIRMAN GAVE GROUP STRONG REMINDER OF RULE THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT FULL ACCOUNT SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THE SENSITIVITY OF JAPAN'S POSITION AS A PETROLEUM IMPORTER -- AS WELL AS THE SENSITIVITIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES -- BUT ALSO BELIEVE THAT STATEMENTS OF THE TYPE REPORTEDLY MADE BY YAMAGATA TEND TO INCREASE DIFFICULTIES FOR US ALL. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT PRESS REPORTS MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE, CHARGE HAS MENTIONED THIS MATTER IN LOW KEY TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO OECD YOSHINO. LATTER SAID JAPANESE AUTHORITIES GENERALLY ARE COGNIZANT OF U.S. GOVT POSITION BUT THAT YAMAGATA, AS NEW APPOINTEE, MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD NUANCES.
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